

U.S.S.N. 09/435,461

Page 2

group consisting of pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance and luster properties of said polyester.

6. (Three times amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyesterase has at least 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme in a UV and a MB assay.

7. (Four times amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said polyesterase has at least 100% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without polyesterase enzyme in a UV and a MB assay.

12. (Three times amended) A method for modifying the textile characteristics of a polyester article prior to the application of a finish to the article, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a polyesterase enzyme, wherein said polyesterase enzyme has at least 10% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without polyesterase enzyme in an UV assay and a MB assay;

(b) contacting said polyesterase enzyme with said polyester article under conditions and for a time suitable for said polyesterase to produce a modified polyester article; and

(c) producing a modified polyester article.

21. (Twice amended) A method for enzymatically modifying the characteristics of a unsoiled aromatic polyester textile comprising; treating said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme which produces in a UV and a MB assay at least a 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme, the treatment for a time and under conditions to modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.

U.S.S.N. 09/435,461

Page 3

23. (Twice amended) A method for modifying the surface of an aromatic polyester resin, film, fiber, yarn or fabric comprising, (a) contacting said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme which produces in a UV and a MB assay at least a 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme, the treatment for a time and under conditions to modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.